



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 17 ½ YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 37-year-old Robert Hugo Sul of San Antonio, Texas, was sentenced this morning to 210 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez ordered Sul to be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

On May 18, 2004, a federal jury found Sul guilty of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Testimony during trial revealed that on January 30, 2003, San Antonio police officers were dispatched to 132 Querida, San Antonio, Texas for a shots-fired call. One of the officers familiar with the area went to the back of the house and observed Mr. Sul holding a handgun while some teenage (juvenile) boys were present. Sul spotted the officer and ran into the house. While other officers secured the front of the house, this officer went to the back door and spoke to the owner of the house. The officer showed the homeowner numerous spent 9mm caliber bullet casings on the ground where the defendant and the juveniles were standing. The homeowner gave the officers consent to enter the house to search for the defendant and the firearm. The defendant was arrested and showed the officers where he had hidden the handgun.

Mr. Sul's previous convictions include: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon - Gun (Bexar County, Texas); Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Bexar County, Texas); and, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault (Cook County, Illinois).

"The message is simple: violent criminals who possess firearms in Texas will be prosecuted and punished," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Mr. Sul found this out the hard way today. He will spend the next 17 ½ years of his life in federal prison serving hard time without the possibility of parole and our community will be a little safer with him off the streets."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the San Antonio Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Matheny prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

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Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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